

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 3, line 20, and ending at page 3, line 32 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--~~The subject matters of According to the present invention to achieve the above purpose are disclosed in the following items:~~ [1] A there is provided a medical needle, comprising an inner needle which is inserted into living tissue, and a hollow cylindrical outer tube needle which is inserted into the living tissue together with the inner needle, with the inner needle being inserted thereinto, and is retained in the living tissue after the inner needle is removed, wherein the tip portion of the inner needle extending out of the front end bore of said outer tube needle is formed as a spherical crown portion which is capable of being inserted along a punctured hole previously formed in the living tissue so as not to damage the lumen of the punctured hole, and said inner needle comprises:

a main body portion which is formed to have an outside diameter which is approximately equal to the inside diameter of said outer tube needle;

a tapered portion which integrally connects to the front end portion of the main body portion, extends along the axis of the main body portion, being gradually decreased in diameter, and extends out of the front end bore of said outer tube needle; and

a small-diameter portion which further extends a prescribed length from the front end portion of the tapered portion along said axis, having a diameter which is approximately equal to the smallest diameter of the front end portion thereof, and the tip portion of the small-

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diameter portion is formed as said spherical crown
portion.--

Please delete the paragraphs beginning at page 3, line 33,
and ending at page 4, line 23.